

ParentInfo

News for a child's
most important educator

November 18, 2014



Links:

- [Kentucky FFA members excel at National FFA Convention](#)
- [STLP Regional Showcases highlight students' tech talents](#)
- [KDE receives five-year, \\$8.1 million mental health training grant](#)
- [Sarah Reed named 2015 Kentucky Teacher of the Year](#)



All photos by Amy Wallot unless otherwise noted

Additional content:

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Twitter chat

Parents: Want to chat with educators? A parent/teacher Twitter chat takes place at 9 p.m. every Wednesday. To participate or just follow the conversation, use the hashtag #PTchat.



Protecting children from the outbreak of enterovirus D68

The United States has been experiencing an outbreak of enterovirus D68 (EV-D68) associated with severe respiratory illness that has been especially harmful to children. EV-D68 almost exclusively causes [respiratory illness](#), and varies from mild to severe. Initial symptoms are similar to those for the [common cold](#), including a runny nose, sore throat, cough and fever. As the disease progresses, more serious symptoms may occur, including difficulty breathing as in [pneumonia](#), reduced alertness, a reduction in urine production, and dehydration, and may lead to [respiratory failure](#).

It can also cause variable skin [rashes](#), abdominal pain and soft stools.

Enteroviruses are very common, especially in the early fall. [The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) estimates that 10 million to 15 million infections occur in the United States each year. These viruses usually present like the common cold; symptoms include sneezing, a runny nose and a cough. Most people recover without any treatment. But EV-D68 appears to be exacerbating breathing problems in children who have asthma.

“Children less than 5 years old and children with underlying asthma appear to be at greatest risk of hav-



ing medical complications from EV-D68,” Oklahoma epidemiologist Dr. Kristy Bradley said. “If a child develops a cold or a cough, parents and caregivers should just watch the child a little more closely. ... If wheezing or asthma-like symptoms develop, medical care should be accessed immediately.”

Like other enteroviruses, the respiratory illness appears to spread through close contact with infected people. That makes children more susceptible.

To reduce the risk, health officials advise:

- Wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds – particularly after going to the bathroom or changing diapers.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces that are regularly touched by different people, such as toys and doorknobs.
- Avoid shaking hands, kissing, hugging and sharing cups or eating utensils with people who are sick.
- And stay home if you feel unwell and keep sick children out of school.

There’s no vaccine for EV-D68. Talk to your child’s doctor about how to control the symptoms.



Keep Your Child from Getting and Spreading ENTEROVIRUS D68



Avoid close contact with sick people



Cover your coughs & sneezes



Wash your hands often with soap & water



Clean & disinfect surfaces



Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands



Stay home when you're sick



www.cdc.gov/non-polio-enterovirus/EV68/

Department of Education seeking feedback on proposed social studies, arts standards

Parents can have a say in determining how Kentucky students will learn social studies and arts in school. The Kentucky Department of Education is seeking feedback on the proposed social studies and arts and humanities standards.

Senate Bill 1 (2009) required the state to revise its academic standards to be aligned with the latest research, informed by national efforts, be internationally comparable and focused on the critical thinking and practices students need for success in the 21st century.

Both sets of the proposed standards have met those criteria and have involved Kentucky educators. The department is hoping for broader feedback before they are adopted into Kentucky's Core Academic Standards.

Through Dec. 5, all interested Kentuckians are invited to review the proposed standards and share feedback that will be used to revise and

refine them before final consideration by the Kentucky Board of Education.

The draft social studies standards focus on deeper learning and inquiry, not just the memorization of facts. They encourage students to make connections to the world around them and apply their knowledge and skills.

The proposed arts and humanities standards are designed to engage students in the processes used to create and understand artistic expression and include discipline-specific performance standards.

Tentatively, pending approval, the new social studies and arts standards would be taught for the first time in the 2015-16 school year.

Social studies and arts standards

To provide feedback about the social studies standards, go [here](#).

To provide feedback for the arts standards, review the standards for any or all of the ones that interest you.

- [Visual Arts](#)
- [Music](#)
- [Theatre](#)
- [Media Arts](#)
- [Dance](#)



Helping students with disabilities to communicate at school

Students with disabilities, like all other students, must be provided the opportunity to fully participate in our public schools. A critical aspect of participation is communication with others.

The U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights and Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services and the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division recently issued joint guidance about the responsibility of public elementary and secondary schools to ensure that communication with students with hearing, vision, or speech disabilities is as effective as communication with other students.

Three federal laws address the obligations of schools but do so in different ways. The [new guidance](#) is designed to help schools navigate those laws. The department also included a [fact sheet](#) for parents that is also [available in Spanish](#).



Toyota Family Teacher of the Year Award nominations open through Dec. 31

The National Center for Families Learning (NCFL) is accepting nominations through Dec. 31 for the 2015 Toyota Family Teacher of the Year Award, which will award \$20,000 to an exemplary teacher engaging families in education.

Educators working with families through schools, libraries and other community-based organizations are eligible for the award. The winner's school or program will receive the \$20,000 prize to further efforts to engage families in learning together, and the second-prize winner will receive a \$2,500 prize.

The winners will be announced in March at the NCFL's 2015 Families Learning Summit in Houston, and the grand prize winner will deliver a speech to summit attendees.

Last year's Toyota Family Teacher of the Year was Elizabeth Attack of the Nashville Public Library. Click [here](#) to read a Q&A with Attack.

For more information on award criteria or to nominate a teacher, go [here](#).





Avoid these common student financial aid mistakes

Many students spend more for college than they should by making some common mistakes when seeking financial aid. The Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA) offers these tips to make sure students can get the help they need.

Some families don't bother to apply for financial aid because they don't think they'll qualify. But all students should submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to find out if they're eligible for state and federal student aid programs. Not filing may hurt the chances of getting more free money for college.

Another mistake is waiting until the last minute to apply for financial aid. Some programs have deadlines, while others have limited funds. Students and families should submit the FAFSA as soon as possible after Jan. 1 of each year.

Colleges send each student who has applied for student aid a financial aid package. Students and their families should look it over carefully. They should compare offers from schools to see which is the best deal. Of course, students should also consider other factors, such as whether a school offers the academic program a student wants or if it meets other expectations.

Students who need loans should apply for federal student loans before applying for private loans. Not all private lenders offer the same rates and benefits. Borrowers should pay close attention to what lenders call the back-end benefits: the interest rate and principal reductions offered when repaying the loan.

To find links to other useful websites, go to www.gotocollege.ky.gov. For more information about Kentucky scholarships and grants, visit www.kheaa.com or call (800) 928-8926, ext. 6-7372

Student entries sought for Eco-Art Contest entries

The Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection (DEP) is seeking entries for its 2014-15 Eco-Art Contest. The contest, which is in its sixth year, provides an opportunity for students to gain statewide recognition for their artwork as it relates to Kentucky's environment.

Multiple awards will be presented to eligible Kentucky high school students who create art using the contest themes of conservation, pollution prevention and environmental protection. Students may submit artwork that consists of drawing/painting/print, mixed media, sculpture and photographs. There will be one winner for each art type within each category.

Contest entries are being accepted until midnight on Feb. 27, 2015. All entries must be sent via email only to envhelp@ky.gov. A digital picture of each artwork must accompany each form submitted.

All students enrolled in Kentucky public or private high schools for the 2014-15 academic year are eligible. Winners will be notified in March, with winning entries to be displayed in the DEP Training Center at 300 Fair Oaks Lane in Frankfort.

For more information about the contest and to access a nomination form, visit <http://dca.ky.gov/LGGS/Pages/ecoart.aspx> or call the Division of Compliance Assistance at (800) 926-8111.



Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection photo
Mary Nicole Peckham, of Pleasure Ridge Park High School (Jefferson County), was one of the winners of the 2014 Eco-Art Contest for her painting, "Trappings."